



GOOD TUNES FOR BEGINNERS TO CALL

Everyone has a chance to call a song, but it might be hard to figure out what to pick. Some options: Use a lucky number. Open the book to a random page. Roll dice. Select a good and easy tune from the list below. All tunes with a “*” at the end have a “Learn to Sing Sacred Harp” video on YouTube.

- 34b St. Thomas
- 39 Detroit
- 40 Lenox*
- 45t New Britain*
- 47b Idumea
- 49t Old Hundred
- 59 Holy Manna*
- 62 Parting Hand
- 65 Sweet Prospect
- 101t Canaan’s Land
- 142 Stratfield*
- 146 Hallelujah*
- 155 Northfield*
- 159 Wondrous Love*
- 162 Plenary
- 178 Africa*
- 209 Evening Shade
- 277 Antioch
- 282 I’m Going Home
- 354 Lebanon
- 425 Golden Streets
- 457 Wayfaring Stranger
- 448t Consecration



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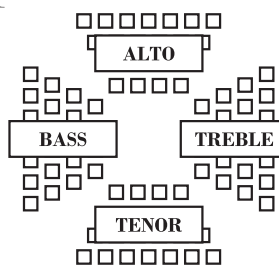
The Shape Notes

The music is written in standard notation, except that the notes appear in four different shapes; therefore the music is also called “shape note.” We use the old four-note English system: *fa-so-la-mi-fa*.

Before singing the words to a shape note tune, we “sing the notes” by singing the syllables of the shapes to try to learn our parts before tackling the words.

The Hollow Square

Shape note music is divided into four parts: treble, alto, tenor (or lead), and bass. Women and men double on both the treble and tenor parts, with women usually singing an octave above the men.



When in doubt—sing tenor. That’s where the melody is. Feel free to move around to try different parts.

The Four Parts of the Tune

1. Hark! from the tomb a dole - ful sound, Mine ears, at-tend the cry, Ye

2. "Princ - es, this clay must be your bed, In spite of all your tow'rs; The

3. Great God! is this our cer - tain doom? And are we still se - cure? Still

HELPFUL LINKS

FaSoLa.org Resources

<https://fasola.org/resources/>

Robust website with LOTS of great information.

SING LOUD! dot org

<https://singloud.org/>

A great starting place for singers, focused on developing materials for shape-note music.

Shape Note Singings

<https://shapenotesingings.com/>

The best website to find details on All-Day singings, and local and regional groups to sing with.

Sacred Harp Publishing

<http://originalsacredharp.com/>

This is where you can buy the “Denson” *Sacred Harp* tunebook. This is the most common tunebook sung from, though not the only one!

Shenandoah Harmony Pub. Co.

<https://shenandoahharmony.com/>

This is where you can buy *The Shenandoah Harmony* and *The Valley Pocket Harmonist* tunebooks.

Hollow Square Books

<https://hollowsquarebooks.com>

A webshop dedicated to shape-note books and more. Many items not available elsewhere.

Each of these websites link to many others!

Thank you for singing with us. Come back and *fa-so-la* some more!